

# Fires Bde. medics spend May moving

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**Fires Brigade Medical Plans Officer**

The month of May had the medical section of 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery moving in many different directions.

The month began with four medics: Spc. Marc Mangino, Spc. Bobby Warden, Spc. Reggie Lockett, Spc. Kevin Jerrell, and the physician assistant, Capt. Cleve Sylvester, testing and becoming certified at the Advanced Cardiac Life Support course offered at the 47th Combat Support Hospital in Mosul. It was great to see so many weeks of training and hard work come to a much deserved conclusion.

Training continued at Forward Operating Base Q-West with a combat lifesaver course. A total of eight Soldiers completed the course and received certification.

Towards the end of the month, two Medical Communication for Combat Casualty Care system administrators from the 47th CSH came to the 2-20 FA battalion aid station at Q-West to train the medical section. The entire section was instructed on proper operating procedures for the MC4 computer system. The section also learned how to use the Combat Healthcare System II patient administrative software.

News of battalion relocation to a new base created a lot of work.

The news also brought a few changes to the structure of the medical section. Two medics, Spc. Russell Dragon and Spc. Chris Santomo, moved back to FOB Q-West.

These medics had been supporting a firing platoon from Battery B, 2-20 FA for the last four months. The consolidation of these medics brought the total strength at FOB Q-West up to nine medics. This group spent the latter part of the month packing up the battalion aid station.

Two other medics, Sgt. Charles Egerstrom and Spc. Joshua Kelly continued to stay at Camp Fallujah in support of Battery A, 2-20 FA. These two stayed very busy supporting numerous fire missions. In between missions they managed to find time to conduct a CLS course, which five soldiers successfully completed.

Supporting a new mission and becoming familiar with a new area of operation will certainly prove to be a challenging task in the upcoming months. This mission, however, is one that the medical section from 2-20 FA is well prepared to successfully conduct.

The Headquarters Battery medical section also had a busy month in May. Spc. Patrie Campbell-Sobish began training with the Military Integrated Transitional Training team to help build and stabilize the Iraqi military.

The MiTT team is for the 6th Iraqi Army. Campbell's job includes providing medical coverage for daily convoy runs throughout Baghdad and using her knowledge and experience to help build the quality of Iraqi medical facilities and personnel. This is a challenging and rewarding job, and one that Campbell volunteered and worked hard for.

Two other medics, Spc. Larry Mellette and Spc. Jeffery Legere began work at the 4th Infantry Division detainee holding area. This facility holds detainees for a few days while they are questioned. Mellette and Legere assist in medical coverage for the facility to ensure the detainees are receiving good medical care.

Expert Field Medical Badge training continued with classes on the litter obstacle course, a 100-question written test, and land navigation. Soldiers also continued with medical lectures on venomous insects and animals (Maj. Barbara Bowsher), basic echocardiogram interpretation (Lt. Col. Jon Allison), sexually transmitted diseases (Staff Sergeant Timothy Foster), and Acute Coronary Syndrome (Allison).

These lectures help continue growth of the medical knowledge of all of our personnel for actions here as well as further down the road in their military careers. We are lucky to have the expertise of Allison and Bowsher, as well as the experience of our NCOs to make these lectures highly informative.

The headquarters medics continue to provide coverage for convoys and weapons ranges. Spc. Timothy Peters provided medical coverage on his first convoy last month and we will continue to train all our medics on convoy operations.

Maj. Barbara Bowsher was selected for promotion to lieutenant colonel last month. This is a tremendous, well deserved achievement and we hope to be able to promote her while we're here in Iraq.

The 589th Brigade Support Battalion medical team has been doing great thing for the Fires Brigade. They were able to send six Soldiers to Taji for optical issues and ordered twenty-five pairs of glasses for soldiers in their battalion. They continue to provide all the medical logistic support for the brigade, and have been busy planning for the pending increase in Soldiers here on Camp Liberty.

1st Lt. Dave Kuhn and 2nd Lt. Tanya McClendon are currently home on leave enjoying a well deserved break from activities here.

Thanks again for all the support we receive from everyone back home. The Soldiers who haven't taken leave yet look forward to coming home and we all think of our loved ones daily. Until next month, take care and keep us in your thoughts.